

[12-22-03]

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

*ENTRY
NOT
APPROVED*
*grulen
1-16-04*

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined ("__") being added and the language that contains strikethrough ("—") being deleted:

1. – 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method for tuning an optical filter, the optical filter defining an optical path and being adapted to propagate an optical signal along the optical path, said method comprising:

providing an optical filter component having a propagation axis, said optical filter component being a multi-layer interference filter;

arranging the optical filter component along the optical path, the optical filter component exhibiting a length of physical path along the propagation axis, the optical filter component being adapted to receive the optical signal such that, in response to the optical signal, the optical filter component propagates at least a first frequency of light along the optical path; and

altering the length of the physical path of the optical filter component along the propagation axis by selectively placing the optical filter component under axial tension and axial compression such that the optical filter component propagates at least a second frequency of light along the optical path in response to the optical signal, the second frequency of light being different from the first frequency of light; and

The method of claim 16, further comprising: